THE FIFTH DAY.

17th February 1911.

SUBJECTS.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on Friday, the 17th February.

VII. RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

62. *Maintenance of separate registers of Devaswom properties and separate accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Devaswoms.*

Mr. Eravithayar Pandarathil (Member, Jenmies of the Quilon Division) thanked the Government for the assurance contained in the Dewan's Address that steps would soon be taken not only to put the Devaswoms on an efficient footing but also to safeguard their future, and the Member expressed the hope that the disposal of this important question would not be put off any further.

Proceeding to the subject, the Member said that he had three suggestions to make for the earnest and kind consideration of the Government, *viz.*—

(1) That a separate register should be kept of the properties belonging to the several Devaswoms;

(2) That separate accounts should be maintained of the income and expenditure of the Devaswoms;

(3) That the surplus capital to the credit of the Devaswoms should be invested in reproductive ways and the profits credited to the Devaswoms from time to time.

In regard to the first point, he said that, till the Settlement of 1012, the Devaswom properties *were* being shown separately, but subsequently, several changes of tenures had taken place. In spite of that, it should be possible, with the aid of the accounts of 998 and 1012, to open a new register of Devaswom properties, and the Member said that his prayer was that the task should be undertaken. It might be that, at the last Settlement, the tenures of the properties had undergone many changes, but, as the changes made were unjustifiable, he said that the original tenures of the lands should be restored and a list or register made of the lands.

With reference to the second point, the Member stated that the Government had observed in the Administration Report of 1085 that "the income from their (Major Temples) *landed properties* was *not* shown separately in the State

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Accounts, for the reason that those properties had merged in the General Accounts with the assumption of those temples and no attempt was made at any subsequent time to separate the Devaswom Land Revenue from the General Land Revenue of the State." He said that the inclusion of the Devaswom Revenue with the General Revenue was a great hardship to the Devaswoms and to the Hindu community, because the General Revenue would be utilised for purposes benefiting all classes of His Highness' subjects. But the Devaswom income should rightly be expended for purposes connected with the Devaswoms alone, as the properties were in the nature of endowments and as the position of the Government was only that of a trustee. He added that the religious endowments of other communities, such as the Christians or Mahomedans, were not similarly allowed to be added to the public funds, and that being so, the fact that the Government was a Hindu Government ought not to operate against the interests of the Hindu endowments.

The Member then said that there was a general impression that the Government had been for a long time contributing from the General Revenue towards the expenditure connected with some of the Devaswoms. The action of the Government in treating the Devaswom properties as Sirkar properties and merging the receipts from them with the Government Revenue was mainly responsible for that impression. If a correct inventory of the Devaswom properties were taken and separate accounts of their receipts and expenditure kept, it would be found that the fact was otherwise and that the impression was wrong. He therefore requested that steps might be taken to keep separate accounts of the Devaswom receipts and expenditure and to add the surplus to the credit of the Devaswoms from year to year.

As regards the third point, he said that to allow the surplus funds in the Devaswom *Bhandaroms* to remain locked up there, was a waste, that they should be invested in reproductive ways and that there was no objection to its being done, both in the interests of the Devaswoms themselves and the general public. These funds, if given out under proper conditions and safeguards, would serve as capital for large undertakings and would at the same time add to the receipts of the Devaswoms.

In conclusion, the Member suggested that a special officer or Committee might be appointed, if necessary, to make an enquiry and draw up an inventory as proposed and that the Brahmin *Jenmies* were prepared to render all

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assistance in the matter and even work on the Committee gratuitously.

Dewan's reply.—The Member has dealt with a difficult question well. His suggestions are noted.

63. *Establishment of a poor house for the crippled, the destitute, etc., in the State.*

Mr. Aiyappan Aiyappan (Member, Chengannur Taluk) said that there was at present no institution for the protection of the blind, the crippled and the destitute. Though there was an hospital for the incurables at Trivandrum, its usefulness was but little, owing to ignorance on the part of the people of its existence and the difficulty which the poor, the blind and the crippled in the Mofussil had to undergo in coming to Trivandrum. The class of people above described crowded the public thoroughfares during festivals in temples and caused a good deal of annoyance to the public by exposing their sores and deformities in view to excite pity and obtain alms. There was no law in respect of the incurables. Some provision similar to that made in the case of lepers should be made for these people being brought to the Incurable Hospital and lodged there by the Police or some responsible Revenue authority. Substantial relief had been given to such people in the past by the Government from the *Oottupuras* and *Kanjipuras*. But in the altered condition of things that was not possible. A small sum of money to be devoted to the relief of the crippled and the destitute should not be deemed to be a burden on the State finances. The Member then thanked the Government for the policy of retrenchment in the expenditure on the *Oottupuras* and said that if, in these circumstances, the Government would find their way to establish an asylum for the destitute, the crippled, blind and other incurables in the State, such an act of charity would greatly add to the glory of the administration, whose motto was "Charity, our Household Divinity".

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

THE MARUMAKKATHAYAM BILL.

Dewan.—Gentlemen, I now propose to take the opinions of the Samantha and Nair Members of the Assembly on the draft Marumakkathayam Bill. I am sure that you have all read the Bill and have been thinking about it a great deal. I would request each of you to give your opinion briefly and to the point. Those who approve generally of the Bill, but differ in respect of the details, may say exactly what the details are in respect of which they hold a different opinion.

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